New New York Stations.—It may be of sufficient interest to mention in the BULLETIN that in June, 1883, I found well established on a railroad embankment on Coney Island quite a number of specimens of *Asperugo procumbens*, L., and on the northerly side of 155th Street, opposite the Trinity Church cemetery, in New York city, *Barbarea præcox*.

Buffalo, N. Y. DAVID F. DAY.

Necrology.—Samuel Botsford Buckley, Ph. D., died February 18th, 1884, of pneumonia, at his home in Austin, Texas, aged nearly 75 years. He was born May 9th, 1809, in Yates County, N. Y., near Seneca Lake, six miles from Penn Yan and graduated at Wesleyan University, Conn., in the class of 1836. From this period onward he spent much time in the Southern States, then a comparatively new field for the naturalist, collecting plants, shells and insects. His various discoveries in natural science relate exclusively to southern species, in connection with which his name often occurs.

It was not until 1866, however, that he made his home in the South, at which time he was appointed State Geologist of Texas and became a resident of Austin.

In 1841 he discovered in Clarke County, Ala., the skeleton of a *Zeuglodon* seventy feet in length which is now in the Warren Museum at Boston. As a botanist he had no specialty, and his studies were in consequence promiscuous; yet his name will be forever linked with the flora of our country. He aided largely in the preparation of Mrs. Young's "Flora of Texas," and was several years engaged in writing a work on the trees and shrubs of America, which is unfinished. He contributed some papers on new species of ants. Among the new shells found by him in Florida is a beautiful *Unio*, which Dr. Isaac Lea has named *Unio Buckleyi*. Professor Buckley was a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, and of societies in New York, Buffalo and New Orleans.

Penn Yan, N. Y. S. HART WRIGHT.

Botanical Notes.

A Catalogue of North American Carices has been compiled and recently published by Mr. L. H. Bailey, Jr., of Cambridge, Mass. It includes the names of two hundred and ninety-three species and eighty-four varieties, and is intended as an exchange-list, a check list for herbaria and as a contribution to American caricography. Copies of the catalogue will be given for desiderata.

Parkinson's "Paradisus."—A good many people, we suspect, have experienced difficulty in construing "Paradisi in Sole Paradisus terrestris." The editor of *Aunt Judy's Magazine* and the venerable Rev. H. T. Ellacombe are confessedly among the number, but they have been the means of eliciting from correspondents of *Notes and Queries* the explanation that the title is a wretched pun. "Paradisus" is a park; "Paradisi" is, of course, the genitive of this; "in sole" is in (the) sun (son). Hence the title would run, "The Terrestrial Paradise of Park-in-son." Such punning titles were not uncommon in Parkinson's time.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

The Gender of varietal Names.—In answer to the editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, who asked Mr. DeCandolle's opinion as to whether the name of a variety should conform in gender to the generic name when the abbreviation "var." follows the specific, the distinguished codifier of botanical namenclature answers as follows:

"I have sometimes put to myself the same question as to the gender of the names of varieties, and it is most likely that in practice I have resolved it sometimes in one way and sometimes in another, but I have just been looking to the practice of authors of repute, and I observe that, in general, they have made the varietal name conform to the gender of the generic name, thus:

"Nasturtium amphibium, α indivisum, DC., *Syst.*, ii., p. 117.

"Thymus Serpyllum, β montanus, Benth., in *Prodr.*, xii.

"Phyllanthus simplex, β oblongifolius, Müller, in *Prodr.*, xv., &c.

If the word '*varietas*,' or the abbreviation 'var.' be employed, it seems most correct to make the abjective feminine. The use of Greek letters to indicate varieties, thus: α, β, γ, corresponds to the employment of figures, which have no gender. On the other hand, when the idea is expressed by a qualifying 'var.' or '*varietas*,' a sentence is made which must be constructed in the correct grammatical manner. The name of the variety becomes in this case an adjective qualifying '*varietas*,' and should therefore take a feminine termination. English writers generally use the abbreviation 'var.' Linnæus indicated the varieties by the Greek letters, α, β, γ, without, as a rule, adding any other epithet. Continental authors have mainly confirmed to Linnean usage, and do not write 'var.' This is in conformity with the omission of 'gen.' before the generic, or 'sp.' before the specific name."

Relation of Medullary Rays to the Strength of Timber.—At a January meeting of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences Dr. Rothrock called attention to some experiments made by Mr. Frank Day, in the laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania, on the relation of the medullary ray to the strength of timber. Mr. Day had found that it required just about twice as much force (say 1,130 pounds) to pull apart a square inch of live oak, if the force ran parallel with these rays, as it would if the force were applied at right-angles to them.

What was true of the live oak was also largely true of other timbers. The buttonwood (*Platanus occidentalis*) was remarkable for the development of its medullary rays, and also for the difficulty of splitting the wood at right-angles to them.

Mr. Day's experiments also proved that there existed great differences in the quality of the material of the woody fibre; for in timber where the relative proportion of wood and ducts could well be compared, and where the fibres were of equal size throughout, differences in strength were to be found.

Botanists of short stature will be interested in a statement made in the April *Naturalist* "that no obituary notices of scientific men of a length of a page or less have ever been declined by its editors."

The Syracuse Botanical Club.—During the past year the Syracuse Botanical Club has added over one hundred and fifty mounted